

22 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Walter Pforzheimer
HIC/OCR

SUBJECT : Notes on Books

1. People's War People's Army by General Vo Nguyen Giap

This book is a somewhat disjointed collection of essays and speeches giving the background and development of the North Vietnamese Army from its inception as an action arm of the communist party up through the victory over the French at Dienbienphu. It also contains a fairly detailed discussion of the siege at Dienbienphu. There are a number of interesting discussions of basic policy problems affecting the conduct of guerrilla warfare. The portion of the book that is most pertinent to the study of the theory of guerrilla warfare is contained in the section between pages 98 and 112.

2. One Hundred and Fifty Questions Asked of a Guerrilla Fighter by Alberto Bayo

This appears to be basically a detailed manual in question and answer form designed for the specific use of Cuban guerrillas fighting against Batista. It appears to be quite sound in so far as general theory is concerned but has a number of points that would have been important only in connection with the specific problems faced by guerrillas at that particular place and time.

3. The Formidable Guerrilla, published by ARMY, Vol. 12, No. 8, March 1962

The author of this article makes a very interesting and reasonably convincing plea against under-rating the abilities

of conventional military forces in combatting guerrillas. His main point is, that by stripping a conventional infantryman of his heavy weapons, gear, and baggage, and converting him into a light infantryman, his superior training in marksmanship, care of weapons, discipline, etc., will enable him to meet the guerrilla on his own ground and defeat him.

W. A. TIDWELL
Assistant to the DD/I (Planning)